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ART ON THE PACIFIC COAST

BY HENRIETTA HOUSH

THE State of California, particularly the southern portion of the State, is awakening to the realization of the fact that one of the most stupendous undertakings, for the advancement of interests, and for reciprocal benefits, is approaching consummation.

Near the geographical, if not the business, center of Greater Los Angeles, midway between the mountains and the sea, lies a beautiful tract of land which has long been known as Agricultural Park. It is State property, under the control of the Sixth District Agricultural Association.

As a triumph of the enthusiasm of Mr. William M. Bowen, a well-known attorney of Los Angeles, and secretary of the Park Board, a group of buildings and a crystallization of forces is to make of Agricultural Park permanent exposition grounds.

Gratifying responses from State, county, and city officials, as well as from individuals, give evidence that Mr. Bowen's plans are comprehensive, and that his efforts are appreciated.

Through the liberality of the State, impressive exposition buildings and a fine armory hall will be erected in the Park under the supervision and direction of Mr. Nathaniel Ellery, State Engineer. The county building, which will serve as an historical and art museum, will be one of the finest of the group. It has been designed by Messrs. Hudson and Munsell, and was made possible through the generosity and far-sightedness of the Board of Supervisors of Los Angeles County.

This building will be in the Spanish Renaissance style, the material red, tapestry brick, with terra-cotta trimmings. It will have as a dominant feature a great rotunda, seventy feet in diameter, from which will extend three wings, one hundred and ten feet in length by fifty feet in width. The main entrance and approaches will be of granite, the floors of the vestibule and rotunda of mosaic tiles;

the walls of the rotunda of Italian marble. The dome, fifty-eight feet in height, with a skylight twenty feet in diameter, will be supported by sixteen scaffiola columns.

This building, moreover, will have appropriate setting, the city of Los Angeles having made a large appropriation for beautifying the grounds. Sunken gardens, a fountain, and a skilful grouping of trees will conduce to a picturesque effect.

The co-operation of many of the leading organizations of Southern California has been secured.

To the Fine Arts League, of Los Angeles, the Board of Supervisors has committed for fifty years the care of the rotunda and art gallery, the plans for which have been modified if not made in consultation with the League's Art Committee.

In appropriating a large sum of money for a splendid building to be devoted to Art, Science, and History, the supervisors have set an example that may well be emulated. Doubtless many wealthy citizens of Los Angeles will find pleasure in assisting to make these galleries a testimonial of the taste and art appreciation of the people of Southern California in order that a favorable impression may be made when travelers and friends from other parts of the world may visit the far West.

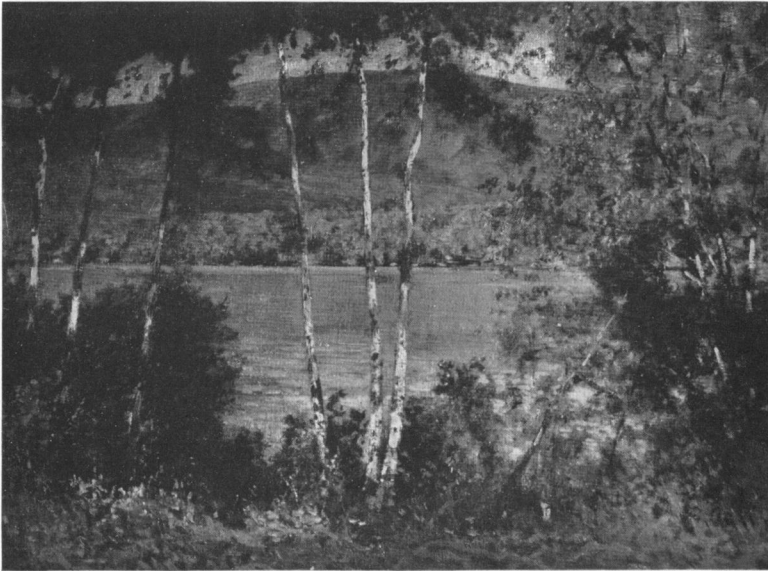
The honor paid the League is shared by the Southern California Historical Society, the Southern California Academy of Science, and the Southern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club, into whose keeping the other wings of the building have been placed.

The Fine Arts League, as many readers of ART AND PROGRESS know, is a young organization, which stands for high ideals. The Honorable T. E. Gibbon, of Los Angeles, is its president. Its object is to found and maintain, according to the highest standards, for the pub-

lic good, an institution which shall be primarily a home of the Fine Arts, including not only painting and sculpture, but music and poetry. The membership list of the League includes the names of leading citizens of Los Angeles and the surrounding country, and also of residents of California as far north as San Francisco and San José, and as far south as San Diego.

Looking to the future, special, as well as permanent, exhibitions are being planned. The building will be completed

in about a year and then, it is understood, many valuable works of art will be offered by private individuals as loan exhibits. A schedule of transient exhibitions will be published, and artists of distinction invited to make contributions. A high standard will be maintained. A plan is also being made to secure a monumental group of sculpture, typifying Art, Science, and History, for the center of the rotunda, which, for such, will afford peculiarly dignified and appropriate setting.



THE BIRCHES

WILLIAM R. DERRICK

THE POLAND SPRING EXHIBITION

BY WILLIAM HOWE DOWNES

AFTER the close of the Chicago World's Fair of 1893, the proprietors of the Poland Spring House bought the Maine State building, which had been built on the grounds of the exposition, and had it brought to their own grounds at South Poland, Me., where it was erected again in a pleasant pine grove, and became the free library and reading room for the inmates of the two hotels conducted by Hiram Ricker &

Sons. The building is in the form of an octagon, three stories in height; and it was soon decided that the upper story should be devoted to a summer art exhibition of American pictures and sculptures. Miss Nettie M. Ricker, the sister of the proprietors, who has always been much interested in art matters, and had studied art at the Cowles Art School in Boston for several years, originated this scheme, and took upon herself the duties